

30. (Amended) A system for processing program information as claimed in Claim 27, further comprising means for transmitting program classification information from a user side terminal to a server side terminal, means for classifying program information as a function of the program information classification means at the server side, and means for transmitting only program information classified into program classification information that has been transmitted from the user side terminal to the user side terminal.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the patentability of the referenced application is solicited in view of the above amendments and the following comments. It is not believed that any extension of time is required in order to maintain the pendency of this application. However, if an extension is required, kindly consider this to be a petition therefore. It is not believed that any fee is due with the filing of this response. However, if there is a fee that is due, kindly charge the same to the undersigned attorneys' deposit account 07-1337.

In the outstanding action the examiner has rejected the patentability of claims 1-7, 11-17, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 26 as being clearly anticipated by Baji et al. (USP 5,027,400) under the provisions of 35 USC 102(b). The Examiner contends that the Baji et al. patent discloses the designation of two axes attributes used for defining the two axes of a display on a program table (column 12, lines 53-68). A careful reading of the Baji et al. reference will show that it only discloses a table structure in which the movement of a user's finger in contact with the screen is detected by an x coordinate detect circuit and a Y coordinate detect circuit and a cursor on the screen moves in accordance with the movement of the finger. According to the Baji et al. structure, only X coordinate and Y coordinate can be designated on a pane of the tablet. Therefore, two (2) axes cannot be defined by designating two (2) attributes of the data being reported in the tablet as the Examiner contends.

On the other hand, according to the present invention, the horizontal and vertical axes of a table on the screen are defined by designating two (2) attributes of the data being

represented that are selected by the user as shown in Figs. 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B and 5A-5C. As discussed above, Baji et al. does not disclose a structure in which a user can select attributes as indexes of X coordinate and Y coordinate. For this reason, what is disclosed by the Baji et al. patent is totally different from the present invention.

The Examiner further states that the Bali et al. reference discloses classifying program information (column 11, lines 54-60). However, the Baji et al. patent only discloses a single hierarchic level, as shown in Figs. 14B to 14E. Although additional hierarchic levels are disclosed at column 11, line 59, these levels may be used for further classifying a program that has already been designated, such as by a title (see for example the title TITLE S in Fig. 14C). The classifications by Baji are prepared in advance using indexes that are convenient to a user. Contrary to this, according to the present invention, two indexes or attributes are selected from a plurality of attributes to identify the variables in the table. This enables the user to select from and to retrieve programs corresponding to the selected indexes or attributes when the user intends to perform retrieval with a two-dimensional program table that is being displayed

Claims 8-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being directed to subject matter that was considered to have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art and therefore unpatentable over the combined disclosures of the cited Baji et al. patent and the Wehmeyer et al. patent (USP 5,867,226). However, the purpose of addition and deletion of attributes disclosed by the Wehmeyer et al. reference is to provide program information in accordance with user's viewing preference as mentioned in the ABSTRACT. Fig. 3 of this reference shows addition and deletion of an item or a program to and/or from a list in order to record the viewing history of a subscriber. On the other hand, the purpose of addition and deletion of attributes according to the present invention is to make it possible to generate a new program table and to therefor the user is enabled to select his desired program from a much larger list of attributes. The user then has the power to refine his table of possible selections so that he can select a program to be retrieved using each newly selected group of attributes. From the above, it will be understood that the purpose of the addition and/or deletion of attributes according to the present invention is totally different from that in the Wehmeyer et al patent. Therefore, even if

the disclosure of the Wehmeyer et al. patent is combined with the disclosure of the Baji et al. patent, the results achieved by the practice of the present invention cannot be achieved.

In the outstanding action, claim 18 stands rejected as being directed to subject matter that would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art and therefore not in compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 103(a). The reference citations are the Baji et al. disclosure in view of LaJoie et al. (USP 5,850,218) disclosure. However, the LaJoie et al. patent does not disclose how to achieve an audience rating, nor how to pass this information on to the instant audience. Therefore, even if the disclosure of the LaJoie et al. patent is combined with the disclosure of the Baji et al. patent, the particular operation claimed in this claim 18, of calculating the number of people viewing a specific program, cannot be achieved.

It is urged that the examiner carefully reconsider the grounds of rejection that have been advanced. The references that have been cited do not support the rejections that have been entered. It is therefore urged that the examiner withdraw the outstanding rejections and allow all of the instant claims.

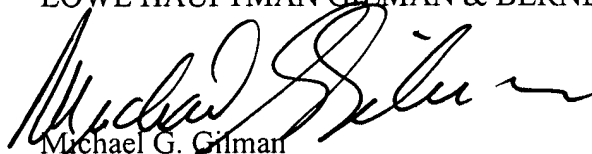
It is believed that all of the objections that the examiner has entered as to the form and wording of the claims and specification have been met by the instant response. Should the examiner continue any of these objections or enter new objections, he is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss the matters and to propose suitable amendments that will obviate the objections. Applicants will make every effort to accommodate the examiner's suggestions of appropriate amendments.

The examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 10, 21, 22, 25 and 27-30 is acknowledged. Rewriting them in independent form is respectfully deferred pending the allowance of all claims.

It is urged that the examiner reconsider his position and allow all of applicants' claims.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Gilman", is written over the printed name.

Michael G. Gilman
Registration No. 19,114
Attorneys for the applicants

Customer No 22429

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300/310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile

Docket No 041-2021

July 11, 2002

MGG/vgg